[London Telegraph.] From Scotland there comes a remarkable story which is vouched for as being perfectly true, and which, inasmuch as it has no earthly bearing on politics, or Midiothian, or crofters, or the iniquities of Mr. Winans, ought to be surely welcomed as a blessed relief. It is a simple tale—the tale of a dead This Caledonian ass has donkey. This Caledonian ass has just died, full of years though not of honors, and is declared to have reached, at the time of its lamented decease, the patriarchal age of one hundred and What is still more curious is the fact that it was not the natural infirmity of declining years which finally conquered the resolute and rather wiry old quadruped, but some form of vio Perhaps a kick from an ill-disposed donkey youngster of seventy or eighty, who was jealous of the remarkably green old age attained by the deceased, terminated his career thus prematurely. That its death was premature is obvious from the recorded fact that at the time when it met with the fatal accident

it was enjoying perfect health. Even at 106 the donkey was "hale and hearty," and we are therefore led to suppose that if it had not been the victim of a deplorable casualty it might have lived on another century or so. There is no telling to what lengths donkey's stubbornness will go. If it resolutely sets its face against dying, it is probable that it can always succeed in living on; but hitherto the asinine race has been treated with so much unmerited insult and contempt that its members have preferred to die straight away rather than continue to be the sport of donkey-boys and the butt of the costermonger. Life has not had so many attractions that the average jackass has seen any strong reason for de siring its indefinite prolongation. This Caledonian centenarian of asses, however, must have met with exceptional good fortune in the way of masters and mistresses, or it may be this apostle of a new donkey philosophy endeavored to show that life is worth living after all. Like most other apostles, this donkey has met with a tragic fate. It has undoubtedly perished before its though not exactly in the bloom of early youth, and we are left behind to speculate on the causes which kept it

Foremost among these causes must be reckoned the "caller air" of the Highlands, the glorious life-giving ether of the Bens and Lochs. There be places in Scotland so healthy that, as Mark Twain says, the inhabitants have to go somewhere else to die. Then a great share of the credit of this excep tional longevity must be awarded to the diet which was patronized by the donkey in question. The Scottish thistle is a wonderful and a prickly plant. Botanists say that it is not really at all common in Caledonia but a few thistles probably go a long way to satisfy appetite and nourish the vital powers. Thus, when one has had thistles for supper it is probable that there is no frantic desire to have them again for breakfast. Had it not been for this national dietary, the departed donkey would have gone to the shadowy land much sooner, and could not still have been "hale and hearty" at the remarkably advanced age to which he had undoubtedly attained.

There are always people to throw doubts on every historical fact; so it may be as well to mention that this donkey's age is known and guaranteed for one hundred and six years back but before that time its history is buried in profound darkness. parish registers tell when it first saw the light. Thus it is quite possible that, instead of a paltry hundred years or so, this extraordinary quadruped is really as old as the union between Scotland and England. It may have witnessed the Porteus riots, or even assisted at Queen Mary's marriage to the Black Bothwell, or been an humble follower of John Knox. tell? Its age is so great that the memory of the oldest inhabitant runneth not to the contrary. A donkey that had continued to exist for upwards of a century would be equal to almost anything in the way of protracting his mortal span beyond reasonable limits. An ass is a vegetarian animal, and, as is well known, the frugivorous and herbivorous creatures live longer than the carnivora. A tiger's motto is " A short life and a merry one"; but the elephant browses on for half a century.

In the South Kensington Natural-History Museum there is to be seen at this moment a huge stuffed tortoise. belonging to an almost extinct race of giants living on the island of Aldabra, off the East African coast. Its size is positively stupendous, and it is related of this creature that it weighed 870 pounds at the time of its capture; that it was then known to be quite eighty years old, and had not done growing How much longer would this "elephant tortoise" have consented to breathe the breath of life, and to grow? It must have been quite an infant, yet it had seen eighty summers come and go. It has something of the overgrown, over-fed schoolboy about its look. Viewed from in front "it resembles the fat boy in "Pickwick," and from behind a portly old lady getting into an omnibus. whole question of why some animals live so much longer than others is intensely interesting, and is one to which science has not yet given a satisfactory answer. Probably, loss of teeth is much more fatal to the carnivorous species than to the herbivorous tribes : a lion, when age renders it unable to catch its prey, crawls off into the jungle to die.

A donkey is not usually supposed to be a particularly long-lived beast, though some of its varieties are more so than others. The asinine family has its aristocracy and its "lower classes." The upper circles are to be found in Arabia and on the borders of the Levant. The middle classes are our own British asses, which are as inferio to the beautiful species to be found in Palestine as it is superior to the miserable little cat-hammed Indian "guddhas." In India the donkey is almost as much despised as at home. No caste but the lowest, the "dho bies," or washermen, will consent to use the patient, intelligent animal; and there is more excuse for this neglect in Hindoostan, where a donkey is of slight stature and miserable appearance generally. The "dhobies," ever, are attached to their beasts of burden, like our costermongers in Eng-

Another mysterious point about donkeys is that nobody has ever seen a dead one. There is a curious fancy among some gardeners that to bury a donkey under a fruit-tree will insure a plentiful crop of fruit; but the diffi-culty is to find the deceased ass. In this respect the donkey very much resembles the elephant, for hunters are unanimous in their declarations that they have never yet encountered the body of an elephant which had died a natural death. In the vast forests of Ceylon, which still form looks to

phantine skeleton is lighted on by the explorer. Sir Emerson Tennant tells a story of a man who spent thirty-six years in the heart of the jungles, in he work of road-making and survey ing, and yet never came across any such sight. Whither, it may, therefore, such sight. be reasonably asked, do the elephants go when they think about dying? The fact is so remarkable that from it has sprung a very curious legend, implicitly

believed in throughout Ceylon. The Cingalese say that there is some-where in the island a mysterious valley into which elephants hasten when they feel death coming upon them, and that if only an explorer or "shikaree" were fortunate enough to hit upon this valley he would perceive therein the mouldering bones of immense multitudes of pachyderms-a veritable elephants' cemetery, chosen and maintained by themselves. The only objection to this fanciful theory is that nobody has yet discovered anything approaching this vast mausoleum, and so the mystery of what becomes of the dead elephants is as obscure as what happens to the dead donkeys or the dead London sparrows. That donkeys do die we know: they are not immortal in this life, whatever they may be in the next; and Bishop Butler has averred that animal immortality is by no means an impossible hypothesis—to deny it point-blank is, according to this ecclesi-astical and philosophical authority, an

idea " founded on ignorance." The Caledonian donkey made a spirited, but unhappily an unsuccessful, attempt to withstand the effect of years; and it has gone down to its grave regretted by all who knew it, and who had ever listened to its voice. After this unsolicited tribute to the supporting effects of a mixed diet of Scotch thistles and Scotch air, it may be that our savants will find out what are the chemical properties of the food which enabled the lamented centenarian to be "hale and hearty" so long after its proper hours for closing. And, having discovered the secret, we may expect a new patent food for invalids compacted of the tempting materials which kept this miraculous animal alive, and probably kicking, down to a few days ago Yet, after all, the general verdict would be that it must have been a great donkey to think life worth living at the cost of having thistles to eat.

#### Geographical Notes.

Apropos of our comments on the facilities for navigation in Hudson bay (Science, No. 142, page 350) we learn that the company's annual vessel, with a cargo valued at over a million, was recently driven on the bar at the anchorage near Moose Factory, the port of

the region, and became a total wreck. The whaling fleet in Alaskan waters this summer numbered forty sailingvessels and eight steamers, with total tonnage of 14,262 tons. No further disasters had occurred up to the latest advices, and the ressels embayed y ice near Point Barrow had been safely extricated. One hundred and twenty-six whales had been taken.

The fishing fleet of the North Pacific has returned to San Francisco. Fourteen trips were made by 12 vessels, aggregating 2,550 tons. The fish taken in Alaskan waters numbered 922,000, and from the Okhotsk sea 452,000. The value of the catch is about \$150,-000. This industry has been successfully prosecuted since 1864.

The boundary between the territory of the Argentine Confederation and Brazil, forming the western limit of the province of Santa Catherina, has been r some time in doubt. Efforts hitherto made to settle it have been fruitless. and the disputed area between the Uruguay and Iguassu rivers-a strip some seventy-five miles wide-has been regarded as neutral ground. In the ittle-known region known as the Missiones, formerly governed by the Jesuit missionaries, an old treaty between Spain and Portugal fixed upon two rivers, the Peperi and San Anto-Iguassu, and south into the Uruguay, as the boundary in question. The determination in modern times of the particular rivers, out of many existing, which were entitled to bear the above names, has been fraught with difficulty. The two Governments have now agreed to a joint exploration of the neutral ground, in order that the matter may be permanently settled.

In the report of Governor Swineford, of Alaska, recently made public, an interesting resume of affairs in the Territory is presented. Educational matters have made some progress, though a want of tact on the part of the agent of the Bureau of Education, notwithstanding his energy and ability, has aggravated difficulties which, in the sature of things, were serious enough already. The value of the southeastern part of the Territory is warmly maintained by the Governor, who upholds essentially views expressed by many travellers, which it has been the fashion, on the part of ignorant or interested persons, to deride as 'rose-colored.' success of mining and fishing enterprises, and the practicability of auxliary agriculture, are insisted upon. Hardy vegetables do well, and cattle are sleek and in the best condition. The white population of this part of the Territory amounts to 1,900, and that of the partly civilized natives to ,000 more.

In this connection the New York Times very reasonably points out the usefulness of exploration in Alaska, as compared with Arctic expeditions. The prospect of a survey of the very dubiusly-defined boundary will probably before long require systematic and extensive work in this direction. The indirect results of such investigation can hardly fail to be important.

### Beientific Notes

It has been estimated that from a single pound of steel costing about 50 cents there can be manufactured 100,000 watch screws worth \$11. Some of these machine-made screws are so small that an uneducated eye requires the aid of a magnifying glass to see what they

From an abstract in the Journal of the Chemical Society of a paper by MM. Cailletet and Bouty it appears that the electrical resistance of most pure metals decreases regularly with a reduction of temperature from 0 degrees to 123 degrees, and that the coflicient of variation is practically the same in all cases.

Pike's Peak railroad, when comleted, as it is soon expected to be, will e the most notable track in the world. It will mount 2,000 feet higher than the Lima and Oroya road in Peru. The entire thirty miles of its length will be a succession of complicated curves and grades, with no piece of traight track longer than 300 feet.

Some of the designs among a collection illustrative of the Mohammedan achitecture of Western India on exhibition in Edinburgh has evoked this comment: "In construction alone the Hindu dome is a lesson. The maxim of its architects that 'an arch never sleeps," made them discard the radiating voussoirs and employ a vault which, though nearly pyramidal in sec-tion, can be ornamented in a great va-riety of styles, and which, if at all large, looks to the eye below more or less arched." LAND OF THE AZTECS.

SCENES RENDERED FAMOUS.

ero Gerro, the Pass Made Prominent by th Mexican War-Curious Houses. A Jalaps (Mexico) correspo writes as follows to the New York Sun This noted health resort lies about seventy-five miles north of the port of Vera Cruz, and more than four thousand feet above it. To reach it one must go to San Juan by the Mexican railroad, and travel the remaining sixty three miles by mule-car, over the long-est tramway in the world. Most of the route lies along that splendidly-paved and curbed old Spanish highway ing from the coast to the capital, over which-for more than three hundred years-all passengers and commerce were conveyed by the diligencia and mule train, until the steam-cars began rupning via Orizaba. The first forty miles leads mainly

through tropic lagoons, whose every tree is burdened with creepers, para-

sitic growths, and an astonishi

riety of orchids, all tangled together in one many-tinted mass of foliage. It is a tradition devoutly believed by the Indians that the veritable Garden of Eden was located in this corner of Mexico, and that Jalapa occupies the exact spot where, according to Genesis, "the Lord walked in the cool of the day." Certainly this portion of the State of Vera Cruz carries out the idea of paradise after the curse, for nowhere are there any traces of disobedient Eve's descendants. Within many miles there are no plantations to be seen, and a few evidences of human labor. All is a flowery wilderness, most beautiful to behold, but indescribably lonesome-a deserted and tenantless Eden. To make good the tradition, a tree grows here (the chirimoya) which is called "forbidden fruit," from the danger of eating too much of its rich, custard-like product. Its mam-moth, trumpet-shaped blossoms, hanging pendent from every limb, are ten times larger than the lily, and far more fragrant than the rose; but such are their soporific qualities that to sleep under the tree is believed to be sure death. Persons troubled with insomnia keep a few of the flowers in their apartments by day, but take care to remove them before the hour of retiring, lest their overpowering odors produce an endless

The maguey-plant, also indigenous to this locality, is believed to be the real. "Indian fig-tree" to which our first parents resorted when they bethought themselves of dress-making, for in it kind nature supplied all materials, its strong fibres producing both cloth and thread, and the sharp-pointed thorns that terminate its gigantic leaves serving

to this day for pins and needles.

One may travel for days through this lovely solitude without hearing the song of a bird or seeing any animals but those that destroy. The serpent is still master of the situation, and has begotten a numerous progeny. Gigantic rattlesnakes, asps, and a hundred other dangerous species glide away at our approach; reptiles prey upon each other in the miasmatic lagoons, where fatal calenturas lurk under every leaf; enormous lizards and iguanas bask in the burning sunshine; tarantulas, scorpions, centipedes, and xin-xins abound in the hot sands, and parasitic plants, like vegetable vampires, suck

life from every tree. At length, gradually ascending from lowlands, we wind along a series of silent hills till a sudden descent brings us to the celebrated Puente Nacional, a magnificent viaduct built by the early Spaniards, and known as Puente del Ray (the King's bridge), until all that royal personage's possessions in this country were appropriated by the people. The Antigna river, flowing beneath it over a rocky bed, takes a perpendicular leap at this point into a dark and mossy dell. The quiet, fernfringed shallows above are all fishless, for it is a peculiarity of Mexican streams that few of them contain any of the finny tribes. This happy huntingnd of the naturalist, the historian and the curiosity-seeker is by no means a fair field for the sportsman, either with rod or gun.

The approach to the King's bridge is commanded by stone forts on both sides, and all the adjacent heights are strongly fertified. Perhaps no spot in Mexico has witnessed more stirring scenes, for many times during the inces sant wars of the last three centuries has the pass been hotly contested. General Winfield Scott and his troops erossed here; and not far away his army were encamped when the yellowfever broke out among them and five hundred brave soldiers were left upon the field. Armies sweep ing by to civil conflicts have foun their progress stopped by these frowning batteries. Here Gomez practiced cruelties in the name of liberty and in the neighboring fastnesses the revolutionary generals lay concealed in Iturbide's time till from this vantageground they descended to conclude the ight for independence. Aztecs, Spanjards, Frenchmen, Americans, have marched to death over this Mexican Styx-a long and ghostly train of warriors, with varying ambitions, to write success or failure upon the pages of history.

In former times this region was a faverite resort for salteadors, or "Knights of the Road," and no diligencia coming in from Vera Cruz could expect to escape an overhauling. The gentlemanly robbers, sallying out in suffi cient numbers to insure obedience to all their modest demands, were in the habit of treating passengers with all the courtesy consistent with the profession.

Assisting them to alight with the utmost politeness, the knights requested male travellers to stretch themselves prone upon their faces on the ground. Few were so foolhardy as to disobey when an overpowering number of carbines were pointed at their craniums, for the least sign of resistance was the signal for one's instant execution. If any priests were present they were given the first attention-out of respect for their sacred calling-the salteadores kneeling before them in mock humility and requesting "alms" (mean crosses, rosaries, or whatever valuables the fathers might happen to have), and afterward craving a parting benedicte. Next the ladies were relieved of their purses, ear-rings, and other trinkets, not without many gallant expressions of regret that beauty should be thus subjected to annovance. Then the men were searched, pistols, ammunition, money, watches, &c., secured. The trunks and the treasure-box of the coach were by no means neglected, and occasionally even worse things occurred when the knights chanced to be in need of new apparel. In such cases the passengers ere reduced to about the condition of the first occupants of Eden before figleaves became fashionable, sometimes a single garment being kindly left to each out of deference to the ladies.

But such enlivening incidents of travel are mostly in the past, and today we may journey anywhere.

Mexico with comparative safety. Forday we may journey anywhere in generate days, when most of the poor knights are reduced to ignoble labor, even churches are sometimes sacked. and the Virgin herself is frequently

All the highways and by-ways of Mexico are strewn with rude crosses, each with its surrounding heap of stones, marking wayside murders. But the traveller may console himself with the assurance that, if assassinated here, his murderers will set up the symbol of their faith above him, and tarry long enough to mutter prayers for his un-shriven soul. And through all the years each passer-by will pause to say an Ave Maria, and to toss a pebble upon his grave in token that the pious duty has been performed, till such a mighty mausoleum is collected that Gabriel will be puzzled how to get him out from under it !

About midway between Vera Cruz and Jalapa we pass a tumble-down village containing scarcely forty houses, every one of which was a robber's nest in "the good old days." Now that steam-cars and tramways have so lamentably demoralized the bandit business the honest ex-knights can no longer live by the sweat of their brows, but subsist in peacetul respectability on the profits of former enterprise.

If the tourist is so fortunate as to have for a fellow-passenger Colonel John Thrailkill, the genial American who is president of the road, or Mr. John Murphy, the well-known mailcarrier, he will be entertained by many never-to-be-forgotten tales. During several years of incessant revolutions Mr. Murphy made regular trips between the coast and the City of Mexico, charging \$500 in gold for carrying a single passenger and \$16 per ounce for letters. And it was well worth it, considering the perils to be encountered. The doughty little Irishman, who is as brave as a lion and as honest as the day, was personally acquainted with all the "professionals" along the route, and knew that his life was not worth a penny unless he "stood in" with them to a certain extent. Though faithful to his trust as far as circumstances would permit, he never betraved one of the robbers, and they in turn protected him and his passengers on many occasions. Refresh his memory with "a drop o' the craythur," and he will entertain you for hours with gruesome tales. He will show you the great tree that bore singular fruitno less than forty-seven human beings having been hanged to its branches; spots where atrocious murders were committed in open day; thickets wherein the knights were wont to divide the spoils and drink to their successes, or where female travellers were sometimes dragged and detained for days; and never forgetting to tell you his own experience in the terrible dungeons of San Juan, where he was thrown by order of the Government for having been (innocently) the first to bring tidings of Republican successes in the interior.

Not far beyond the King's bridge is Encerrio, the once splendid country-seat of General Santa Ana. It is a most beautiful spot-not so productive, perbaps, as his vast estate in the tierra caliente, called Manga de Clavo, but more salubrious. He had often made a stand here in civil wars, and learned to appreciate the beauty of the place long before he was rich enough to own a foot of land anywhere. Mexico has not produced a more remarkable man than this same Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, whom Americans remember as "the butcher of Alamo." During his extraordinary career he was engaged in no less than eight pronunciamentos—five of them made by himself and the rest made by others for his benefit. Twice he was chosen President by the Liberal anti-Catholic party and times elected to the same office by the bitterly opposing ecclesiastical element. Twice he was banished from Mexico, and each time recalled and placed at when taken prisoner, his captors held long consultations about put-ting him to death. He was in turn the candidate of ties-feared, honored, and hated all. He served each faction faithfully in turn, but most faithfully at all times he served himself. Actively employed through life as a politician and a soldier. he vet found time to readjust the whole complex system of Mexican laws, and in several volumes of autocratic decrees he drew from that chaotic mass s system of jurisprudence that will stand monument to his genius. Yet this soldier statesman, once the richest and most honored man in his country, died in abject poverty only nine years ago. About three miles from the City of Mexico, on the hill of Tepryacal, where the Virgin of Guadaloupe is said to have appeared, is a populous cemetery. In contains many of his most distinguished countrymen, may be seen Santa Ana's grave. It is enclosed by a row of inverted iron torches linked together y chains. A scraggy cactus-bush grows on the mound, and at its foot a cedar-tree struggles for exstence, being nearly bare of branches from the constant demands of visitors, who gladly give the section \$1 for a bit of living green in which such illustrious dust has found resurrection. A plain granite slab hung with wreaths of faded immortelles bears only the name and date of death-January 21, 1876. Those who attended the obsequies say that he was actually buried in ragged linen-so great were his necessities. His wife is still living at the capital.

and is by no means an old woman, for she was only thirteen when married to the irrepressible ruler. Fifty-five miles from the coast we reach Cerro Gordo, the "fat hill" famous in the annals of the Mexican war that guards the narrow canyon through which our army came. road is everywhere commanded, and no other is passable among these wild heathts. General Scott was obliged to throw skirmishers on all these ridges before his troops could venture into the long and perilous pass, that is barely wide enough for a trail.

Not far from the narrowest point of the pass a diverging trail leads to the left, to a ridge where cannon are yet found, and where Santa Ana lost one of his legs-a wooden one. That valiant warrior seems to have been a sort of human centipede, for already we have been pointed to at least a dozen historic spots "where Santa Ana lost

a leg!" Just beyond Cerro Gordo the now rapidly-ascending road leaves the low-lands altogether and enters the tierre hamlets, as to occasion remark. They of the Conservatory he became a tell us that from time immemorial

twenty-seven members but three were spared. Not enough were left in the hamlet to bury the dead.

All the houses along this route have extremely steep roofs, thatched with wild grass or Spanish-dagger leaves, and most of them boast of a red-tiled "lean-to." There are few adobe walls and none of brick or stone until we appreach Jalapa, the universal building material being wild bamboo stuck upright in the ground, with wide spaces left between for air.

Near Plan del Rio is an old Spanish signal-station, perched high on a hill above a bridge that looks antique enough to have come down from Adam's day. When the Indians attacked this fort, one summer's day two centurie; ago, the Spaniards kept perfectly quiet, and lay low within the walls till the aston-ished savages climbed up to see if anybody was at home, and their heads were switched off in a twinkling.

In many places straight, slender spires of "organ" cactus, covered with poisonous spines, tower from sixty to eighty feet in height. We see frequent specimens of that curious substance called vegetable silk, from which robosas and an excellent silky cloth are woven; also the tree that bears large balls resembling cotton. The species of palm from whose abundant crop of nuts oil is obtained grows everywhere in the State of Vera Cruz, and the wonder is that some enterprising Yankee does not come down here and make his fortune by manufacturing palm-oil soap.

Just before nightfall, after twelve hours' continuous ride, interrupted only by frequent changing of the mules our train dashes into Jalapa, making such a clatter upon its stony streets that the hills reecho the din, and the population, apparently but half-awakened from a Rip Van Winkle slumber, saunter forth to witness the arrival.

The statue of William Allen for Ohio's niche in the Capitol at Washington will be made by Carl H. Niehaus, of Cincinnati, whose painful effigy of Garfield is soon to be added to his country's bronze and marble woes.

Thorwaldsen used to be a name to swear by in sculpture; he ran Canova a close second. At the sale of Sir Moses Montefiore's effects several fine pieces by Thorwaldsen did not bring \$100; a "Greek Girl With Dog" fetched \$115. A colossal bust of Napoleon I., crowned with laurel, by Canova, brought \$450. At the meeting of the British Asso-

ciation the president of the section on mechanical science, B. Baker, civil en gineer, recalled certain engineering feats of the ancients : " I have no doubt that as able and enterprising engineers existed prior to the age of steam and steel as exists now, and their work was as beneficial to mankind, though different in direction. In the important matter of water-supply to towns, indeed, I doubt whether, having reference to facility of execution, even greater works were not done 2,000 years ago than now. Herodotus speaks of a tunnel eight feet square and nearly a mile long driven through a mountain in order to supply the city of Samos with water, and his statement, though long doubted, was verified in 1882 through the abbot of a neighboring cloister accidentally unearthing some stone slabs. The German Archwological Society sent out Ernst Fabricius to make a complete survey of the work, and the record reads like that of a modern engineering undertaking. Thus from a covered reservoir in the hills proceeded an arched conduit about one thousand yards long, partly driven as a tunnel and partly executed on the 'cut-and-cover' system adopted on the London underground railway. The tunnel proper, more than 1,106 yards in length, was hewn by hammer and chisel through the solid limestone rock. It was driven from the the head of affairs. More than once, two ends like the great Alpine tunnels, without intermediate shafts, and the engineers of 2,400 years ago might well se congratulated for getting only some dozen feet out of level and little more out of line. From the lower end of the tunnel branches were constructed to supply the city mains and fountains, and the explorers found ventilating shafts and side entrances, earthenware ocket pipes, with cement joints, and other interesting details connected with

## the water-supply of towns."

Foreign Gessip. Like the Countess Spencer, the Countess of Carnarvon is determined to "be not weary in well-doing." She is indefatigable in her efforts to be of ise to Irish society at large, and to the poor and the sick in particular. Her kindly visits to two of the principal hospitals touched the people in their tenderest spot, and they are now her most loyal admirers.

A London physician, who has been investigating the subject, says the taste for absinthe was imported from Algeria by the French troops. The effects of this drug, he concludes, when taken in excess. are even more ruinous than those of any of the forms of alcohol which we are familiar in this country, and the craving once formed is as irresistible as the craving for opium.

The English royal family are blessed with singularly hearty appetites-not the appetite of gourmands, who live to eat and not eat to live, but the appetite that indicates a clean palate and a good digestion. They look upon four substantial meals a day as by no means an excessive allowance of food. Even at their 5 o'clock tea the wafer-like bread and butter that customarily accompanies the syrupy Souchong or Orange Pekoe is supplemented by beautifully-cut sandwiches, pate de foie gras, and other tempting delicacies, and every justice is done to them by the illustrious ones, without in any way "spoiling ' elaborate dinner that is to follow later on. Much as the Prince of Wales enjoys a good meal, however, it is to him that thanks are due for the tendency toward curtailing the menu of the "swagger" society dinner, a reforma-tion that his Royal Highness initiated through his dislike for prolonged cere-At Marlborough House and Sandringham the severities that surround royal etiquette are done away with as far as possible, and the enjoyment of guests is thereby considerably

### Americans at a Court.

enhanced.

[Paris American Register.] It seems that the career of the King of Wurtemburg's American favorite, that Yellow Jack cannot come—
is a village which looks so particularly that he has left that city and is not considered the fever line—beyond which it is belived that Yellow Jack cannot come—
is a village which looks so particularly that he has left that city and is not forlown even in this lead of desolate. forlorn, even in this land of desolate likely to return. From being a pupil in the American consulate, until about the place had been considered abso- three years ago King Charles made him lutely safe from fever, the "line" being a member of his entourage, gave him then drawn much further from the val- the title of nobility, fairly overwhelmed ley, and hundreds came here annually him with favors and decorations, and to escape the seourge. But two years ago, during a season of frightful epidemic, when the village was crowded with those who had fled from the lowmerly the salteadors always divided their plunder religiously with the Virgin Mary, hoping thereby to secure climbed even to this point and literally Heaven's indulgence. But in these de-depopulated it. Out of one family of tueus apartment in the Neckar Strasse. CHRISTMAS.

The Origin of the Festival-Its First M. [Dr. Van Dyke in Harper.] There were some men in advance of their age who had learned to think of the whole life of Christ in its unity as a life for and with man example by His life for and with man, crowned by His | festival of divine and human childhood, vicarious death and resurrection.

Ireneus in particular is worthy of special mention and enduring honor as the it was already celebrated in Rome first of the fathers to bring out the unfolding of all the stages of human life
in Jesus Christ; and even though he
had never written another word than had never written another word than this, he deserves to be immortal in the memory of the Church for having said, "The Son of God became a child among the children in order that childhood

might be made holy."

This sentence holds the heart of Christmas. But it was not until long after it was uttered, it was not until the latter half of the fourth century. that the Church at large began to fee and to unfold its meaning. Then it was that she emerged from the storm of persecution into the sunshine of imperial favor. Then she saw that she had a work to do here on earth in the cleansing and adorning of human life with the beauty of holiness. Then she realized that patient suffering and faithful death were not the only duties of the Christian, but that, following God in love, it was possible to begin in this world the purity and peace of Heaven. Then she began to feel the wondrous significance of the living entrance of the Son of God into the life of man, and his perfect pattern of holiness in every human relation. Then she passed from the lower conception of a church saved out of the world to the higher conception of a world to be saved through the ministry of the Church a natural year to be transformed by reverent devotion and wholesome piety into the Christian year, a redeeming life as well as an atoning death of Christ, to be preserved in living remembrance by the perpetual commemora-tion of its chief events. Then it was that, opening her heart to the humanreligion, she began to draw near to the humanity of Jesus, and to seek with eager interest for the day of His birth that she might make it holy. But what clew was there to direct the search? What reason could be

given for choosing one day rather than another for the Christmas festival? The gosnels, always meagre in dates. were quite silent here. They gave no hint of the day or month of the nativity. Oral tradition, we may be sure, was equally reticent or indifferent. There were, indeed, a few scattered suggestions of the date of Christ's birth floating here and there among the writings of the fathers; but these were all of late origin, manifestly unhistorical, and, above all, quite contradictory. Clement of Alexandria said that many Christians regarded the 20th of May as the day of the nativity, others preferred the 20th of April, but he favored the 19th of November. In the Eastern Church the 5th or 6th of January was celebrated as the date of Christ's baptism, and the nativity was joined with this on no better ground than a forced interpretation of Ezekiel, i.: 1-3, as a prophecy of the Incarnation. Others again fixed upon the 21st day of March as the day of Christ's birth. Between such varying and slightly-supported assumption there was little to choose. A historical date was clearly out of the question. Nothing was left for the Church to do but to select some day on grounds of convenience and symbolic ignificance, and celebrate it by common consent as Christmas-Day. It would take too long for me to trace the many reasons which probably led to the choice of the 25th of December. It

was doubtless connected by a process of

leduction with the day which had

already been generally accepted as the common date of the annunciation and of the creation of the world. Assuming that the world was made in the spring, because it was commanded to bring forth grass and herbs and that it was made when and darkness were equally divided, because the "evening and the morning were the first day," it was natural, though somewhat naive, to fix upon the vernal equinox (according to the Julian calendar, March 25th; as the exact date of the creation. He who could question the value of such a straightforward and Scriptural argument as this must have had more logic and less piety than belonged to the early Christians. And once having discover-ed by this easy method the very day on which the world came into being, and the glorious light sprang out of darkness, what more simple than to assume that it was the same day on which the power of the Almighty overshadowed Mary, and the Day-Spring from on high began His entrance into the world? Nothing could be plainer. Even the least imaginative of chronographers could reckon forward from this fixed point of the assumption nine months, and arrive at December 25th as the day of the nativity. And here another wonderful coincidence meets him. This is the day of the winter solstice, the day when the world's darkness begins lessen and the world's light to grow; the day which the aucient world had long celebrated as the birthday of the sun-dies natalis solis invicti. What more appropriate day could be found for the birth of the Sun of Righteousness "? " Behold, my brethren," says St. Augustine, "another instance of the wondrous fulfilment of Scripture. St. John the Baptist is born on June 25th, the summer solstice, when the sun begins to decline. The Lord Jesus is born on December 25th, the winter solstice,

when the sun begins to ascend. And in this is fulfilled the saying, 'He must ncrease, but I must decrease. Does any disciple of modern criticism sneer at this very simple exeresis? Does he venture to think that the early Christians may have been very pious, but must have been even more Nay, my self-satisfied but otherwise discontented friend, it is you who are foolish, when you suppose that the early Christians imagined that they were making history or settling chronology as a science by these simple speculations. Other and ommentators, the fathers of the 'Hard Church,' like Archbishop Usher, may have thought their elaborate conclusions definite and exact. But in the primitive age faith was less mathematical, and all that the early Christians ever meant to do was to bind their devotions into har mony with the year of nature, and utter their profound belief in the vital unity of the life of Christ with the life of the world. Creation and redemption, resurrection and day-break, nativity and the return-ing of the unconquered sun— these are united in the thought of God, and in the gratitude of man. And though the shepherds of Bethlehem may not have watched in the fields by

night amid the rigors of mid-winter though the tax registration of Publius Sulpicius Quirinus may not have taken place in December, every heart that feels the simplicity and beauty of the Christian faith can join in the gladness of that Christmas-day which has been consecrated by centuries of holy joy, and which celebrates the forthcoming of a new light from the darkest and longest of the nights of earth. The earliest mention of the 25th of

J. H. WHITTY,

December as Christmas-day is found in an ancient catalogue of church festivale about 354 A. D. And it is surprising to see with what alacrity the date was BREWERY, Alexandria, Va. WE HAVE THE PLEASURE TO WE HAVE THE PLEASURS TO opened a DEFOT AND BOTTLING MANAGEMENT IN this city at No. 11cc cast Cary street, and are now prepared to furnish the trade of Richmond and vicinity with a Braticais article of KEG BEES as well as BOTTLED BEES. Our Beer is well and favorably known thoughout the South not only as a fine, aparaling, and pleasure beverage, but especially also for its purity. It is brown of one but the finest barley mait and the very best hops that can be had. All orders delivered to one drivers, or to our office at the above address, will receive prompt attention.

mental feast, or the root from which all

Iowans of Great Age.

A Des Moines special says: The

forthcoming census report shows the

following centenarians in Iowa: Elliah

Woodfork, Monona county; Homer Welch, Buchanan; Richard Tarnas,

Linn; Henry Davitt, Warren; Julia

Kitty, Jackson; Anna Koer, Daven-

ron, Allawakee; John O'Malley, Dal-

las; Catharine Parsons, Mitchell; Mar-

garet Bowlan, Burlington; Thomas

Washington, are 101. Dennis Porter.

Keckuk; Ella Gorman, Grinnell, and

William McMahon, Muscatine, are 102.

John Holland, Van Buren, is 103;

Christian Conrad, Delaware, and Mother

Smith, Muscatine, are 104; Sarah

Henry, Marshall, is 105, and Jane Bur-

rell, Decatur, is 106. Mary Jordan, Cass, is 108; Jacob Rogers, Henry, is

107; Mary Breman, Story, is 112, and

Jacob Heike, Grundy, is 121. There

are thirty-five persons whose ages range from 95 to 99 years.

ROYAL

POWDER.

ENDORSED BY THE WORLD.

A DOUBLE DISTILLATION OF MANY

OF THE BEST GERMAN HERBS.

lever recommended any article for medi-cinal purposes, but with some experience I am constrained to say that "Dr. Petzold's German Bitters" is an excellent prepara-tion as an Appetizer, and will relieve if not cure almost any form of Dyspepsia, and is one of the best Tonics I have ever used.

This Great Medicine for sale by all Drug-

rink Great Medicine for sale by all Drug-gists, Grocers, and dealers generally. Price, 50c, and \$1 per bottle. Owens & Minor, agents for Richmond. LOUIS PETZOLD & CO., proprietors, Baltimore, Mr. my 12-Tu, Th&Suly

CONTAGIOUS

I saw the advertisement of Swift's S

I saw the advertisement of Swift's Specific, and I determined to give it a trial sax last resort. I had given up all hope of being cured, as I had gone through the hancs of the best medical men in Nottlingham and New York. I took six bottles of S. S. S. and I can say with great joy that they have cured meentirely. I am as sound and well as I ever was in my life.

L. FRED. HALFORD, NEW YORK CITY, June 12, 1885.

BLOOD

BLUUII

Is the life, and he is wise who remembers it. But in March of last year (1884) I contracted blood-poison, and being in Savannah, Ga., at the time, I went into the hospital there for treatment. I suffered very much from rheumatism at the same time I did not get well under the treatment there, nor was I cured by any of the usua means. I have now taken seven bottles of Swift's Specific, and am sound and well. It drove the poison out through boils on the skin.

DAN LEAHY.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., August 7, 1885.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., August 7, 1885.

POISON

Two years ago I contracted posson.

After taking prescriptions from the best physicians here and at Dallas, I concluded to visit Hot Springs, and on reaching Texarkana a doctor recommended me to try Swift's Specific, assuring me that it would benefit me more than Hot Springs. Although the

had produced great holes in my back and chest, and had removed all the hair off my head, yet I began to improve in a week's time, and the sores began to heal, and were entirely gone inside of eight weeks.

WHILL JONES,
Porter Union Pass, Depot,
Cisco, Texas, July 13, 1885,
Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free.
THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY,
Drawer 3, Atlanta, Ga.; New York, 157
west Twenty-third street, no 19-1w

MERCANTILE AGENCY.

C. F. CLARKE, Pres. E. F. RANDOLPH, Tr

[Established 1849.]

THE BRADSTREET MERCANTIL)

THE BRADSTREET COMPANY,

PROPRIETORS.

BROADWAY. NEW YORK.

Offices in all the principal cities of the inited States and Canada; in London, Engand; also a Continental and Australian our

espondence. VOLUMES ISSUED QUARTERLY.

WOLUMES ISSUED QUARTERLY. Constant revisions and prompt notification to subscribers. Names of reliable lawyers who make collections a specialty. Its ramifications are greater and its brainess larger than any other similar erganization in the world conducted in one interest and under one management. You are respectfully invited to investigate and if in need of any agency to test its ability to correct you.

MICHMOND OFFICE

AGENCY.

A BSOLUTELY PURE.

ine, Burlington, and John Griswold,

port; Thomas McCaulie, Armdt Mar-

other Christian festivals grow.

ceive prompt attention.

One os a tria and patronize Virginia intusty.

Very sepectfully.

ROBERT FORTNER BREWING CO.

ROBEST TORNER. fifty years from its earliest suggestion the observence of December 25th as the day of the nativity had become the HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN universal practice of Christians. St. Chrysostom, in a Christmas sermon preached at Antioch, called it the funda-

# CATTLE,

ALL AGES AND BOTH SEXES—HOME-BRED AND IMPORTED.

COWS AND HEIFERS BRED TO BEST NETHERLAND AND AAGGIE

THE AVERAGE RECORDS OF A HERD ARE THE TRUE TEST OF ITS MERIT.

The following Milk and Butter Records have all been made by animals now in our herd;

MILK RECORDS. MILK RECORDS.

Three cows have averaged over 20,000 pounds each in a year; five cows have averaged over 19 000 pounds in a year; the cowshave averaged over 18,000 pounds in a

have averaged over the constitution have made years, we good a constitution of 16.000 pounds, and fourteen of them are now in our heid, and fourteen of them are now in our heid, and the averaged over 17.500 pounds.

Twonty-five have averaged over 18.000 pounds in a year; sixty-three, the entire number in the herd that have made yearly records, including fourteen three-year-olds and twenty-one two-year-olds, have averaged 12.785 pounds 5 ounces in a year.

BUTTER RECORDS.

Five cows have averaged 20 pounds 7 ounces in a week; nine cows have averaged 19 pounds 50 ounce in a week; fifteen cows have averaged 17 pounds 60 ounces in a week; fifteen cows have averaged 17 pounds 40 ounces in a week; eleven three-year-olds (the entire number tested) have averaged 18 pounds 20 ounces in a week; six two-year-olds have averaged 19 pounds 10 ounces in a week; fifteen two-year-olds (entire number tested) have averaged 19 pounds 83-10 ounces in a week. The entire original Netherland Family of six cows (two being but three years old) have averaged 175 pounds in a week. This is the herd from which to get foundation stock. Prices low for quality of stock.

SMITHS, POWELL & LAMB, Lakeside Stock Farm, no 10-Tu.Th&Su Syracuse, N. Y.

DRUGS, MEDICINES. 20. FOR COUGHS, COLDS, AND BRON-

PURCELL, LADD & CO.'S EMULSION OF COD-LIVER OIL AND HYPO-PHOSPHITES OF LIME

AND SODA.

It is the surest and most permanent remedy for the cure of these troubles. Reliable and always uniform. Price, 50 cents and 51 per bottle. For sale by W. H. Thornbury, corner Reservoir and Cary streets; T. W. Leonard, Second street; E. P. Reeve, New market; L. B. Thomas & Co., Broad street; E. W. Weisiger, Manchester, Va.; B. C. Lewis, corner Twenty-Rith and Leigh, and H. G. Forstmann, west Main street. BLAIR'S CHLORAL THYMOL

is useful to doctor and patient. When diffused in the apartment it disinfects the attendants as well as the sick. In nearly every instance in which it has been used in this city it has prevented the spread of contagious disease, especially diphtheria and scarlet-fever, beyond the sick room.

It is the most agreeable, innocent, and effective destroyer of bad odors and disease germs yet offered to the public. It has cared whooping-cough in a rema ably short time. short time.
For sale by druggists. Price, 50 cents a

DRUNKENNESS, OR THE LIQUOR HABIT,

POSITIVELY CURED BY ADMINISTER-DR. HAINES'S GOLDEN SPECIFIC.

making this the Only Reliable and Efficient Tonic ever placed before the public for the cure of Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, General bebility, Malarial Diseases, Colle, Cramps, Diarrhesa, &c.

The highest character of the many testimonials awarded this preparation has never been equalled. We refer with pleasure to the following: It can be given in a cup of coffee or teawithout the knowledge of the person takeing it, is absolutely harmless, and will effect
a permanent and speedy cure, whether the
patient is a moderate drinker or an alcoholic wreck. It has been given in thousands of cases, and in every instance a perfect cure has followed. It NEVER FAILS,
The system once impregnated with the Specific, it becomes an utter impossibility for
the liquor appetite to exist. For sale by
T. ROBERTS BAKER, Druggist,
919 cast Main street,
Kickmond, Va.
Call or write for panhist co-taining
undreds of testimonias from the best women and men from all parts of the country,
to 23-codly the following;

JAMES GIRBONS, Archbishop of Baitimore, says; I have tried "Dr. Petzoid's
German Bitters" and find it to be a pleasant
and efficient Tonic and Appetizer.

I take great pleasure in recommending "Dr. Petzold's German Bitters" as a medi-cine of rare merits. WILLIAM E. JAYNES, Pastor of Wolfe-Street I. M. church, Balti-DENNYROYAL PILLS .- OHI-CHESTER'S ENGLISH"—the original and only genuine. Safe and reliable. He ward of worthless imitations. Indispense Dr. Millton N. Taylon, one of the best known physicians in Baitimore, writes: be to ladies. Ask your druggist for "CHI-CHESTER'S ENGLISH," and take no other, or inclose four cents (stamps) to us for particulars in letter by return mail. Name paper. CHI/OHESTER CHEMICAL CO., 2313 Madison Square, Philadelphia, Pa. At druggists. Trade supplied by Thornbury & Ramos. je 13-8s.Su&Tuly

DEAFNESS-ITS CAUSES AND DEAF NESS—ITS CAUSES AND CURE, by one who was deaf twenty-eight years. Treated by most of the noted specialists of the day, with no benefit, Cured himself in three months, and since then hundreds of others by same process. A plain, simple, and successful home treatment. Address T. S. PAGE, 128 cast Twenty-sixth street, New York city.

no 1-8u, W&Sa12w

UNDERTARERS. W. BILLUPS & SON, TAKERS,

1506 EAST MAIN STREET (under St. Charles Hotel).

BURIAL CONVEY ANCES furnished at all hours. Telegraph orders attended to day or night. Telephone No. 448. DISEASES ARE PREVALENT ALL OVER THE WORLD. am a native of England, and while I w I am a native of England, and while I want hat country I contracted a terribl blood-poison, and for two years was unde treatment as an out-door patient at Not ingham Hospital. England, but was necured. I suffered the most agonizing pain in my bones, and was covered with sore all over my body and timbs. I had vertig and deafness, with partial loss of sign severe pains in my head and eyes, etc which nearly ran me crasy. I lost all hop in that country and salled for America, an was treated at Rooseveit, in this city, a well as by a prominent physician in Net York having no connection with the hopitals.

J. BINFORD & SUTH-• ERIAND, FURNISHING
UNDERTAKERS, 724 EAST MAIN STREET,
between Seventh and Eighth, have a large
assortment of SHROUDS, WOOD and METALLIC CASKETS, CASES, and CLOTH
CASKETS, at low prices,
Country and telegraph orders promptly attended to day or night. ap 8-1wateow

FURNISHING
UNDERTAKEN,
NO, 1215 EARL PROAD STREET,
RICHMOND, VA.
iviephones Office, No. 68.
Orders promptly executed. Prices moderate,
mh 8-ccc PERNITURE, CARPETS, STOVES, 40

RARE CHANCE.—INTEND-A ING to vacate my store No. 12
Governor street on the lat of January. I
I will offer the ENTIRE STOCK in thee
warerooms at COST FOR CASH. The
stock embraces PARLOR SUITS, FANCY
CHAIRS for Christmas. HAT-RACKS.
SIDE BOARDS. FINE LEATHER
CHAIRS. CHAMBER SUITS, &c., &c. Call
at once and secure bargains. at once and scene bargains.

E. GATHRIGHT'S SON,

no 13 12 and 16 Governor street

WE ARE SELLING AS LOW as any other house in this city
CHAMBER, PARLOR, and DINING. A
ROOM FURNITURE, with a great variety
of FANCY TABLES, CHARS, CABINETS,
LOUNGES, de. Walk through our warsrooms before you buy.
S. W. HABWOOD & SON,
Nos. 4. 6, and 8 Governor street.
po 15-cod4t

CALL AT No. 20 GOVERNOR anice assortment of FURNITURE of new fall styles which will be sold at reduced prices. I buy for cush only, which enables me to sell greater bargains. Low through other houses and then examine mine to satisfy yourselves. Terms made casy.

B. A. ATKINSON.

No. 20 Governor street.

LARGE AND ELEGANT LOOK through our warerooms. We have goods to suit everybody at very low prices. Terms made to self all responsible parties.

S. W. HABWOOD & SON, au 30-3m

Governor street.

TAXEN. NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS.

RICHMOND, NOVember 19, 1885.

HENRICO COUNTY TAX. BILLS for the year 1885 are now ready for payment.

All tax bills remaining unpaid on the 1st day of December next the law provides that 5 per cent, be added. The law also provides that all bills unpaid on that day the Treasurer "shall proceed to collect by distress or otherwise." WILLIAM TAYLOR.

no 20-10t Treasurer Henrico County. RICHMOND, November 19

UBY'S ROYAL GILDING. R' "Rich as Gold Leaf."—N. Y. Heroid,
GILDS EVERYTHING—FRANES, FURNITURE, FRENCOER, ORNANENTS, FARE, PUETOS, &c. Any one can use it. A Camesis Has
Brush in each Box. Price, 50 sents. As
for BUBY'S GILDING. Refuse all subst
tutes. Sold by Paint-Dealess, Druggists, an

new York Chemical M'7g Co., New York 20 Stores